

All quiet
on the western
front

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First person:
when the Wall
came down

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High-school
sports
rundown

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TRAINING TIMES

Vol. 26 No. 19

Serving the 100th Area Support Group communities of Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

Sept. 27, 2005



Photo by Amanda Bevan

Bright young things

Miranda Palmer, resplendent in a mariachi costume made in Juarez, Mexico, performs as part of *Mis Niños*, or "my children," a folk-dance group under the direction of volunteer Ana Rojo. She and fellow members Alex Muñoz, Brendon Navarro, Marisa Ogas, Ashlyn Palmer, and Jacqueline Rojo have entertained at numerous German and American events in the area, including the Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta in Vilseck Sept. 17. For additional observances, see page 10.

'Times' change

Local German publisher
wins newspaper contract

BY NICK D'AMARIO
COMMAND INFORMATION CHIEF

Readers will see a number of differences in their *Training Times* beginning Oct. 12.

With free classifieds for the first time and full color restored, the larger "broadsheet" format will feature eight or more pages of local and national advertising.

These changes are the result of a contract signed this month by U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr and publisher Robert Lehner of Weiden, who will produce the newspaper at no cost to the government, selling advertisements to cover his printing costs.

Lehner also publishes *The Point*, a newspaper for the 98th Area Support Group communities of Wuerzburg, Ansbach, Bad Kissingen, Bamberg, Giebelstadt, Illesheim, Kitzingen and Schweinfurt that has a circulation of 16,000.

Starting with the next edition, Soldiers, family members and Department of Defense civilians may advertise pets, automobiles, job opportunities, personals, items wanted, and things lost and found by logging on to www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes. Deadline for the upcoming issue is Oct. 7.

Change is a constant in military communities, and according to Kathy Gibbs, public affairs officer for the 100th ASG, one of the down sides of the new paper was that the editor, Cara Matlock, would be leaving.

"Cara has been a real trouper," Gibbs said. "She stepped in just over a year and a half ago, when we were in desperate need of an editor. Her dedication and talent have been lauded repeatedly by command information experts at Department of the Army Public Affairs. We are very sorry to see her leave the paper, but we wish her all the best."

Other plans include a new name for the publication, and the 100th ASG Public Affairs Office wants readers in Vilseck, Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels to help pick one. To participate in the poll, which also solicits opinions on current and future content, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=518471359751>. Because this is a secure site, the survey may be completed from a government computer.

As complements to the biweekly travel pieces and cultural columns, a regular page in German for host-nation employees and quarterly construction updates are

See *Change*, page 12

Q&A

Because bouts of insomnia are a common ill, 'Training Times' wondered, "What goes through your mind when you cannot fall asleep?"



Masuda Hosein
"I think about my kids."



Rocio Martinez
"My finances"



Rafael Valle
"I think about the restaurant I am trying to open in Wiesbaden."



Pam Harris
"I think about leaving Germany."



Erin Phillips
"The next time my 3-month-old son is going to wake up"

Interviews and photos by Kathy Jordan

Seat belt may have saved my life

BY BONNIE LUTZ
DCMA NEWS SERVICE

I was driving back to work after picking up something for lunch one sunny day in August. Coming up to an intersection, I saw that the light had turned green, and so I proceeded. Suddenly, a red Chevy S-10 pickup came up on my left side and turned directly into my path. I blew my horn and hit my brakes, thinking that he would see me and stop. He didn't. His truck struck the front driver's side of my automobile, but the second before we collided, everything seemed to happen in slow motion. I actually thought we might bump — as cars at a carnival would. Instead, my seat belt gripped me, and both air bags inflated immediately.

My horn was going off, the interior was filled with smoke from the air bags, and my knees hurt. The impact of the bags had knocked my sunglasses off and sent them across the passenger seat to the far corner, along with my lunch and my purse, which had been lying beside me. A witness rushed over to open my door, thinking that the car was on fire. This gave me a chance to check out my knees. I had felt liquid on them and assumed it was blood. Although my left knee had been jostled between the door panel and the steering column, leaving small cuts, the soda in my cup holder had also exploded,

drenching me.

Anything that had not been completely secured became a flying object during the crash; the garage door opener in the sunglasses holder flew out and hit me in the arm, resulting in a small bruise. Fortunately, all items in the back had been under the luggage net, which kept the box I'd planned to mail in place.

By this time, I had grabbed my cell phone, but I was shaking too badly to make a call. One of the witnesses borrowed it, dialed 911 and then notified my husband at work. When firemen arrived, they had to cut the battery cable to shut off the horn. The first question each of them posed was, "Were you wearing your seat belt?" I repeatedly answered, "Yes," thinking that I would soon have the bruises to prove it. The emergency medical team and the police officers asked the same thing.

Even though the damage to my car did not look that bad, my insurance company declared it a total loss. Not only had both air bags inflated, but the inside door panel and the exterior were

damaged. I can only imagine what would have happened without air bags — or had I not been wearing my seat belt.

People must realize these truly save lives. The other driver and I were each going about 40 miles an hour through the intersection. At

that speed, we could have suffered internal injuries from being flung against the steering wheel or — worse yet — we might have flown through the windshield.

Even if you believe that

this can never happen to you and choose not to wear your seat belt, at least make sure that your young passengers are properly restrained [editor's note: see related story, page 5]. I get chills every time I see a child bouncing across the seat or sitting in someone's lap. A friend of mine who was once an EMT said they have a nickname for children seated in laps: adult air bags.

I am 36, and this was my first automobile accident. I never thought that I would be in one either, but luckily for me and my family, I was nevertheless wearing my seat belt.

A friend of mine who was once an EMT said they have a nickname for children seated in laps: adult air bags.

HISSES

AND

HURRAHS

Hurrah to everyone who made all the yummy samples at the fiesta for the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration [Sept. 17]. I was expecting a few bites of this and that but ended up with a plateful of goodies. I was able to try new dishes and enjoy the entertainment as well.

Leah Gransbery
Vilseck

Hurrah for Alice Adler, whose article in the Sept. 13 edition encouraged me to take my children to Oktoberfest. She was right. We all had a great time.

Garrett Glaser
Grafenwoehr

Hurrah for the Directorate of

Public Works employees who received Length of Service Awards during a ceremony Sept. 23 in Grafenwoehr: Rudolf Ackermann, 20 years; Ernst Andraschko, 20 years; Patrick Bennett, 30 years; Clemens Dietl, 20 years; Eugen Enderlein, 35 years; Kohl Franz, 25 years; Peter Fuchs, 30 years; Albert Hasty, 35 years; Theodor Heinz, 20 years; Boellath Herbert, 20 years; Michael Hoerl, 30 years; Karl Kleber, 20 years; Wilhelm Klug, 40 years; Siegfried Koller, 20 years; Hans Krauss, 20 years; Helmut Krauss, 20 years; Toni Neaverth, 20 years; Peter Nittman, 20 years; Konrad Palecki, 20 years; Albin Paulus, 20 years; Harrer Peter, 25 years; Anita

Pscherer, 30 years; Eduard Rabenstein, 30 years; Josef Reichl, 30 years; Karlheinz Roll, 20 years; Karin Schusser, 30 years; Klaus Schwitalla, 20 years; Heidi Sporrer, 25 years; Willy Stopfer, 20 years; Helmut Suttner, 30 years; and Josef Wegman, 30 years.

Ed.

Submissions to *Hisses and Hurrahs* should be sent via e-mail to the editor at cara.matlock@graf.eur.army.mil, or faxed to 475-7935. Please include a brief description of the episode, along with your name and community, a telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of the person you deem worthy of mention, if known. Identities of those to be censured or criticized should not be revealed. We wish to invoke only private shame, not public stonings.

Training Times

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In brief

Issues sought

The deadline to submit items for discussion at the Army Family Action Plan conference is Oct. 3.

The annual forum, set for Oct. 31 through Nov. 2, gives those within the 100th Area Support Group footprint a chance to speak out. Issue sheets are available at Army Community Service desks, as well as other locations throughout the Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels communities. They may also be downloaded at www.100asg.army.mil by clicking on "Community Services."

To volunteer or obtain more details, call Michelle McLaughlin, program manager, at 476-3275/2650.

Slow down

Speed limits have changed at three locations in Grafenwoehr:

- On Gettysburg Avenue, between Wilbur Road and the Army Post Office, 30 kilometers, or 18 miles, per hour;
- From Wilbur to headquarters on Lexington Avenue, 40 kph (24 mph);
- On the tank trail outside of gate 9, approaching the intersection with Chancellorsville, 30 kph (18 mph).

Military police will begin ticketing violators Oct. 12.

Fossil fuel

Series 6 gas coupons issued by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service for Germany and the Netherlands will expire Sept. 30, after which they will not be accepted at Esso or Aral stations.

Customers may use the invalid coupons through Dec. 31 at AAFES gas stations or request a refund until Sept. 30, 2006, as long as the booklets are intact.

NCO killed in crash

JMTC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Soldier with the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy in Grafenwoehr died Sept. 7 from injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident near Eschenbach, Germany.

Staff Sgt. Perry Dews, 34, a small-group leader assigned to Company B, was pronounced dead at the scene around 7:30 p.m.

Dews is survived by his wife and two children.

He was honored with a memorial ceremony Sept. 10 in the Soldiers Chapel at Camp Normandy on Grafenwoehr Training Area.

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division, safety officials and German police are probing the cause of the crash.

CFC eye on hurricane's homeless

U.S. ARMY EUROPE PAO

Although the Combined Federal Campaign does not officially begin until Oct. 3, this year's effort is riding on the crest of Katrina.

Officials were so deluged with requests from Soldiers, civilians and family members that a Web site — www.opm.gov/cfc — was launched to accept early monetary donations for victims of the hurricane.

"Many times, contributors ask us, 'What can a contribution of \$1 or \$10 really do?'" said Mandy Huckins, executive officer for CFC-Overseas Europe. "Even though that amount may seem insignificant ... in terms of rudimentary medical supplies or food, that amount of money can do quite a lot ... when multiplied."

CFC-Overseas also includes Central, Southern and Pacific commands.

Last year, U.S. Army Europe raised more than \$2.8 million, the

highest in the theater's history.

The 100th Area Support Group alone collected \$240,663, exceeding its previous totals on each of the three posts and averaging just over \$110 per donor.

The annual drive allows servicemembers and federal employees to support more than 1,700 charities in the form of cash, check or payroll deduction. Pledge cards are available at the CFC site above and from unit representatives. The fund-raiser will run through Dec. 2.

"The motto of the 2005 campaign, Making a World of Difference, will hopefully help people to realize even the smallest donation can go a long way when put to good use," Huckins said.

The Grafenwoehr community will officially start its effort with a ceremony in building 244 at 10 a.m.

Details for Vilseck and Hohenfels were unavailable at press time.

AAFES, DeCA offer more modes of relief

USAG-G PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Thousands of military personnel were displaced by Katrina, and many evacuees relocated without even a change of clothes. About 1,000 are at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., and 30 women from Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., were moved to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio during their final trimester of pregnancy. Former residents of the Navy Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Miss., are now living at a similar facility in Washington, D.C. Shelters have also been established at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, Okla., and at least 10 additional installations. Other troops were sent to devastated regions to aid with rescue efforts.

- Under the Helping Hand

program, Army and Air Force Exchange Service patrons can purchase AAFES gift cards at the Post Exchange customer service counters and drop them into the boxes provided. Tables have been set up inside the main stores at Vilseck and Hohenfels.

- The Defense Commissary Agency offers another way to contribute. Gift certificates, available at www.commissaries.com and from most facilities, may now be earmarked for Katrina victims. The Gift of Groceries program was made possible through an agreement with Certificate Inc. at no cost to DeCA. The advantage of the Web site is that certificates may be purchased by anyone who wishes to donate, though they may only be used by authorized shoppers.

Attention shoppers!

Grafenwoehr mall gets under way

BY KATHY JORDAN

TRAINING TIMES STAFF

A groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 16 brought Grafenwoehr one step closer to the largest Army shopping center in Europe.

Taco Bell and Popeye's Chicken and Biscuits will return to the installation as part of the 190,000-square-foot complex, which will house Subway and 11 other concessions, as well as an expanded commissary.

Michael Dowling, director of the Defense Commissary Agency Europe, said this facility would be "bigger and better in every way — triple the operation you see today."

Jack Morris, senior vice president of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Europe, added, "We'll all look forward to watching the mall ... take shape."

The new Post Exchange will be 40 percent larger than the

Wuerzburg store.

This is the first joint DeCA-AAFES initiative to be certified gold with the Sustainable Project Rating Tool, or "SPiRiT," for ecological design, operation, and refurbishment of buildings and infrastructure.

"The SPiRiT program provides guidelines ... in preserving our environment and improving facility life-cycle management through the application of sound energy and environmental conservation principles," explained Col. Margaret Burcham, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe.

Col. Brian Boyle, 100th Area Support Group commander, noted that as Grafenwoehr grew to become one of the largest military communities on the Continent, it would set the standard for servicemembers, Department of Defense civilians and their

families living overseas.

"The new facility will be another piece in the Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr puzzle and a big step forward in preparing our community for the arrival of 3,500 additional Soldiers and their 5,000 family members, who are scheduled to be here by the end of 2008," Boyle said.

Matt Mennona, AAFES general manager for Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels, also spoke of future customers.

"Today as we turn dirt and move into the 21st century, our patrons will be able to enjoy the state-of-the-art facility that they so richly deserve," Mennona said. "Keep watching. I can't wait to see the concrete being poured."

The Corps of Engineers awarded the \$34,804,000 contract to the German firm Klebl GmbH. Baudienststelle, a construction firm in Grafenwoehr, will adminis-

ter and manage the project with technical support from AAFES headquarters in Dallas, the DeCA design-and-construction division at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and the European offices of both in Germany, at Mainz-Kastell and Kapoun Air Base, respectively.

Other AAFES news

- A consolidated Exchange Furniture Store will open Oct. 15 in building 215 on Vilseck. The enlarged space will stock the brands formerly carried by facilities in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, both of which will close permanently Oct. 14. Hours for the new store will be Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and weekends, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; it will be closed Mondays.

- The PX in Hohenfels will be open Wednesday through Sunday, beginning Oct. 19.

Local MWR programs, people take top spots

USAG-G PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities from the 100th Area Support Group, as well as those who kept them running, were twice cited for excellence this month.

The Grafenwoehr Library garnered the Department of the Army-level award for the second consecutive year.

Other DA winners were Grafenwoehr Outdoor Recreation

and Kurt Loh, who was named Friend of Recreation for his work with that organization.

Wolfgang Schultes of ODR, who wrote Loh's recommendation, punned that his nominee "keeps our fishing program afloat." For the past 15 years, Loh has served as a fish warden, making sure that the nearby ponds and lakes remain well-stocked.

Schultes described Loh as an

expert in hydrology, ichthyology and piscine diseases who monitored the water sources daily, including weekends and holidays.

"[He] works in the background as a true volunteer," Schultes said. "His dedication stems from pure love of nature and the sport."

The Army Recreation Awards will be presented at a conference Oct. 17 in San Antonio.

Honored at the Installation

Management Agency-Europe level were Peter Shallish of the 282nd Base Support Battalion in Hohenfels, who won the Recreation Career Award, and Sports and Fitness in Grafenwoehr. They were recognized at a ceremony Sept. 23 during the Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany.

MWR programs based in Europe took 10 out of 22 categories at the DA level.

♪ Some enchanted evening – you may start a fire ♫

Chief waxes impassioned over dangers of open flames

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

As with the love affairs that inspire their lighting, candles can burn you. According to Matthew Spreitzer, U.S. Army Garrison–Grafenwoehr fire chief, they kindled 18,000 household blazes last year.

For this reason, Use Candles With Care is the theme of National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 9 to 15. The goal of this annual observance is making people aware of everyday hazards that are often overlooked.

"We have had five close calls this year within our community alone with small fires that could have been big," Spreitzer said. "Out of those five, three of them were caused by candles.

"One was caused when a candle was set on top of the

television," he recalled. "It melted a nice clean circle and fell inside of the television.

"In another, a young lady had lots of candles on the windowsill. All window frames here are plastic, and the candles melted the plastic, and she wasn't in her room when the fire started.

"The other one happened outdoors. Some plants caught on fire next to the door."

As the holidays draw near, spicily scented candles become especially popular, but using them is inherently risky. Be careful. Keep them out of children's reach and never leave a child unattended in a room where they are burning. Also, be conscious of combustible materials.

"Sometimes people put candles too close to things that catch fire too easily," said Spreitzer. "A lot of materials

today are impregnated with flame-resistant chemicals and materials. Today, you can't get kids' pajamas unless they have been treated with some type of fire retardant."

Despite these advances, you should always be on the lookout for potential fires.

"In many different ways, we get complacent with safety," Spreitzer said. "Our biggest concern is getting the message out to the kids. I can feel more comfortable if grown-ups do something and hurt themselves, but when they do something that hurts their kid or someone else's kids, that really bothers me.

"Take care of your families. Don't take what you have for granted. Take that extra step and think about what you are doing. You don't have to go through a large risk assessment on everything you do. ... Just think of the consequences."

Stateside military moves taking new turn

BY LA WANDA YORK
SDDC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After remaining stationary for many years, the process for permanent changes of station is being transformed, officials announced this summer.

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, headquartered in Alexandria, Va., is developing Families First, scheduled to begin Feb. 1.

The program is designed to alleviate move-related stress by involving servicemembers, giving them more choice and focusing on meeting their needs. SDDC's partners in this effort are trade associations of the American moving industry.

Every year, about 500,000 servicemembers and civilian employees move to new duty stations. They compose the most mobile population in the United States, making the stakes high for moving companies.

Presently, these firms are selected based on the lowest cost, with little consideration for quality. Under the new program, transportation offices will factor in performance to determine the best value. Most contracts will be awarded to

companies that do the best work, as reported by customers via Web-based surveys. This emphasis on satisfaction should stimulate all such businesses to do better.

Another improvement will increase the reimbursement for property lost (or damaged beyond repair) to its full replacement value. Claimants currently receive a depreciated amount. For example, if a servicemember bought a television for \$200 five years ago, after 10 percent annual depreciation was calculated, he would be entitled to \$100 for a lost set under the previous system. With Families First, however, the moving company would either replace it with a new one or reimburse the client for the current market value. In some cases, including boats and other watercraft, ultralight aircraft, pianos and organs, firearms, art objects, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles, used items may be compensatory.

The procedure for claims themselves will change too. Rather than being handled through the local military claims office, they will be filed by the customer with the firm using SDDC's Web-based system. If no settlement is reached within 30 days, a claimant may seek assistance from his

local Judge Advocate General's office.

Moreover, the maximum liability for moving companies will increase from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Families First will also strive for significant reductions in temporary storage, which results in more handling, delays and expense, thereby increasing risks to shipments.

"Under the new program, we will work closely with the services to synchronize member relocations, so most moves may be door to door," said Thomas Hicks, SDDC program director for personal property moves, explaining that this would reduce the need for "double handling."

Finally, in addition to the Department of Defense pamphlet *It's Your Move*, optional pre-PCS counseling will be available on the Web.

The moving companies are expected to benefit as well. Power Track, an automated system, will disburse payments in five to seven days — a particular boon to small-business owners in the moving industry.

Hicks described the program as "a dramatic change," adding, "The greatest challenge is managing business among competing firms."

In brief

Prepare yourself

Family members of Soldiers getting ready to go down-range are invited to the next predeployment fair, Sept. 29, 1 to 6 p.m., at the Langenbruck Center in Vilseck.

A number of on-post agencies will answer questions and offer information.

Join up

The Hohenfels Community and Spouses' Club's annual Super Sign-up is set for Sept. 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at The Zone sports bar.

The membership drive will feature booths for a variety of organizations on post, as well as free food, door prizes and face-painting.

Fee increases

Some prices at two Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities will go up beginning Oct. 1.

Outdoor Recreation will up its fees for cabin rental and shuttle bus rides by 20 percent.

Bay and tool rentals at Auto Crafts Centers will cost an additional 25 percent.

Big day

Bulky trash will be picked up in the town of Grafenwoehr, as well as the villages of Gmuend and Huetten, Oct. 10.

Residents should put unwanted large items — such as mattresses, rugs, furniture, appliances, bicycles and ironing boards — on the curb, separating any metallic objects from the others. Nothing should be larger than 80-by-40-by-32

inches or heavier than 110 pounds. Refrigerators and freezers will only be picked up by request.

The following will not be collected: grass clippings, branches, recyclables, tires, car parts, motorcycles, doors, windows, laminated flooring, construction debris and hazardous waste.

Call 475-7144 for more information.

Recruit for alma mater

The two local high schools will host their annual college nights next month, and both are seeking people to serve as representatives for their respective universities.

The Hohenfels fair is set for Oct. 12, 6 to 8 p.m., and the Vilseck event will be Oct. 18 (time to be announced).

Most admissions offices will send brochures and collegiate paraphernalia upon request. For more information about participating, contact your school liaison: Steve Vojtecky, at 475-1770 or steve.vojtecky@us.army.mil, or Michele Wolff, 466-2783 or michele.wolff@us.army.mil.

Only 89 shopping days 'til Christmas

The Vilseck Community and Spouses' Club will sponsor its annual bazaar in the Memorial Fitness Center: Oct. 14, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Oct. 16, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

European vendors will sell crystal, paintings, furniture, clothing and other items. Drawings for door prizes will be held on the final day at 4 p.m.

The event is open to ID cardholders, but strollers will not be permitted. Visa, Mastercard and checks will be accepted.

To volunteer, call Debbie Rogers at 09662-42080.

Closures, road construction, other changes

- The Nonappropriated Fund Personnel Office in Vilseck is temporarily closed. Those interested in a position should visit the Web site at www.chra.eur.army.mil. To apply, bring the required documents to the Grafenwoehr office in building 244; call 475-6886/6887 for details.

- Franklin Street in Hohenfels will be closed Sept. 28 and 29, so that asphalt may be laid. Automobiles should be removed from affected parking lots by 3 p.m. Sept. 27.

- The blood drive scheduled for Sept. 28 in Vilseck has been postponed; a new date has yet to be determined.

- Starting Sept. 29, Army Post Offices in Vilseck and Grafenwoehr will have the same operating hours: weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The APO in Vilseck will not be open on Saturdays until the holiday schedule begins.

- Grafenwoehr's Network Services Center will be closed Sept. 30; phone 119 for assistance.

- The distribution centers in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck will be closed Sept. 30.

- ID card and Installation Access Control System offices in Vilseck will be closed Sept. 30, while they relocate to rooms 52 and 54.

- Community Banks will be closed Oct. 3 for German Unity Day (see related story, page 9). The bank in Grafenwoehr will also be closed from Oct. 10 until 1 p.m. on Oct. 11.

- The transportation motor pool in Vilseck will be closed Oct. 7.

- The Hohenfels Library will be closed Oct. 11 to 13.

Vilseck employee takes time off for teens

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Sakeeta Lewis had a colorful summer. Shortly before the annual fall grind, she served as a counselor for Operation Purple Camp, helping high-school students from throughout Europe get away from the anxieties of military life.

Started stateside last year, the Continental program gave dependents of deployed servicemembers an opportunity to rock climb, hike, white-water raft and do craft projects at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany, with all their expenses paid. Sessions at Camp Darby in Italy were designed for sixth- through eighth-graders.

The objective was simple: "We wanted them to get out of being worried and stressed," Lewis explained. "We wanted the kids to be safe and have fun — be a kid for a week. We wanted them to take a break from thinking about what Mom and Dad were doing in Iraq or Afghanistan or wherever they were. We just wanted to give the kids a break from all of the pressures."

The acting director of the Vilseck Teen Center, Lewis said that when she heard about Camp Bavaria, as the Garmisch location was called, she thought that being a counselor "would be interesting, because I love working with kids. This was the first year of the program [in Europe], and the kids really got involved."

Only one thing concerned her. "When I saw the itinerary, I thought it was a pretty physical schedule, and I am not a very physical person," Lewis confessed with a smile. "But I actually enjoyed doing all the activities; I participated in everything — except the white-water rafting. I enjoyed the interaction with the kids."

Their first session, Aug. 21 to 27, overlapped with severe floods in the region, but Lewis said that this had not dampened campers' spirits.

"Tuesday was the worst day, so we stayed inside, but the day was not bad," she recalled. "We had a lot of time to practice for our talent show ... [which] was the highlight of the first group's week."

Another turned out for the second round, Aug. 28 to Sept. 3.

"These kids met each other for one week, they had a week to bond and form friendships, and they did," Lewis said. "I was very emotional when they left on Saturday."

Asked if she would participate in the program again, Lewis did not hesitate to answer.

"Absolutely! Honestly, I could have taken a third week. Even though the schedule was repetitive, it was with different kids, so ... the different personalities made it unique to them."

Lewis felt she had accomplished her mission during Operation Purple Camp.

"I think it's awesome how you can impact a child's life in that small amount of time," she said. "Just as long as the kids get what they need out of it, that's all I need."

"It's the little things we do and take for granted that maybe sometimes we think nobody notices that make the biggest difference."

Keep young passengers safe, secure

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Just as adults must buckle themselves up, safety seats are mandatory in U.S. Army Europe for infants and children through age 8.

Although surveys show that most parents follow this rule, many choose the wrong sort of restraint, failing to take their child's age and size into account. Others adjust or install the safety seat incorrectly. Use these guidelines to make certain your child is secure:

- ✚ Youths 12 and under should ride in back;
- ✚ When buying a safety seat, pick one that bears a seal of approval from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation;
- ✚ Infants who weigh less than 20 to 22 pounds — or who are under 1 year old — should ride in a restraint that faces the rear of the automobile (to protect their heads, necks and backs) at a 45-degree, or semi-reclined, angle;
- ✚ Children over the age of 1 who weigh 20 to 40 pounds may ride facing forward; many convertible seats have been designed to be positioned this way, but manufacturers' recommendations vary; some advise rear-facing restraints for 30- to 35-pound tots; check the instructions that come with the seat;
- ✚ Those 1 and older who weigh 20 to 40 pounds may also ride in a high-backed booster seat with straps; when the child weighs 40 pounds, the straps should be removed and the seat used as a belt-positioning booster; and
- ✚ Children weighing between 40 and 80 pounds (generally 4- to 8-year-olds or up to 4 feet, nine inches tall) should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat.

A caveat to the above, however: Most experts agree that children are safer facing the rear of the automobile. If your convertible safety seat has adequate rear-facing weight-and-height limits, you may wish to keep your child in this position as long as possible.

Thrift shops afford way to fit out, suit up, tune in

BY ALICE ADLER
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Moving to Germany is a major step, but only so much preparation is possible. Where in America would one buy a transformer, for instance? Perhaps you have always lived in the South and are totally unprepared for a Bavarian winter. If you plan to stay here a while, you may feel that your 110-volt appliances are simply taking up space. Or maybe all these things are at last resolved, leaving you with time on your hands and a desire to get involved.

Look no further than the local thrift shop, where you can stock your new home with German irons, coffee makers, lamps and televisions. An assortment of transformers in every size is also available. With cold weather coming, fill family *Schränke* with boots, heavy coats, snowsuits and additional gear that might not have been necessary at your last duty station — for a fraction of what they would cost new.

For anyone expecting a baby, thrift shops are also more economical places to furnish a nursery, assemble a wardrobe of tiny togs and pick up all sorts of things you will need.

After other life changes, you may have discovered acquisitions you no longer need or want. Do a little housecleaning and make a tidy profit by consigning your cache. The thrift shop of each post is run by its Community and Spouses' Club, and all profits benefit the installation through welfare donations to scholarship funds and diverse organizations, including Boy Scouts, JROTC, the Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program, high-school cheerleaders and American Women's Activities Germany.

New policies at the Hohenfels Thrift Shop should make the process easier. Patrons may consign 16 items per day (five of which may be seasonal clothing) and keep 75 percent of the selling price. There are no fees for withdrawing or re-consigning, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing the remaining 25 percent went back into your community.

Another way of helping out is lending a hand. The three thrift shops are always seeking volunteers and reward them with first pick on donated and consigned merchandise. According to Maddy Vernieu, the manager in Hohenfels, people can drop in whenever that facility is open and work for any amount of spare time they have. Even 30 minutes of hanging clothes would be much appreciated by her staff.

"It's a friendly environment," she said, "and if you're new to the community, you'd get to know everyone in Hohenfels in a week!"

Hours of operation are as follows:

- **Grafenwoehr**, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (consignments accepted until 1 p.m.);
- **Hohenfels**, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.;
- **Vilseck**, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (consignments until 1 p.m.), and beginning Nov. 5, the first Saturday of the month.



Photo by Alice Adler

Marion Hascin of the Hohenfels Thrift Shop hands Timothy Gilbert his newish Barney and Friends toys.

"I am trying to give teachers, school employees and Soldiers an opportunity to consign and shop," Amy Armstead, the manager in Vilseck, said of the weekend addition. "Our current hours make this difficult for them."

More changes are afoot in Vilseck. The facility will be inside building 221, formerly the Arts and Crafts Center, beginning Oct. 4, and a grand opening is set for Oct. 11.

Finally, thrift shops offer a wealth of information about what is going on. "We post all sorts of flyers," said Vernieu. "It's really a hub here."



World War I trenches in various states of repair can be seen in northern France and Belgium: refurbished and ready to be toured at Vimy Ridge (top), preserved as they appeared to the troops at Ypres (bottom) and all but forgotten throughout both regions (middle).



Photos by Alice Adler

Fallen soldiers from the Great War lie in 170 cemeteries around Ypres, Belgium (above), and their mourners often leave white crosses graced with paper poppies (inset).

Not fade away

BY ALICE ADLER

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

To history buffs lucky enough to live in Germany, visits to the beaches of northern France and Bastogne, Belgium, are practically required. The World War II battles waged there loom large in the minds of Americans, especially after the pomp that surrounded their anniversaries in the past few years.

Decades before the hedgerows of Normandy or the forests of the Ardennes became such deadly scenes, however, the battles of another war tore the landscape apart, killed and maimed millions of men, and turned the Continent upside down.

On July 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was assassinated at Sarajevo, in the former Yugoslavia, setting off a domino-like tumbling of European heads of state that led to what was called the Great War — until another necessitated distinction.

The battles of the First World War were often long and bloody affairs. With both sides dug into trenches, they would fight for months, without either making noticeable progress. All the while, massive artillery bombardment turned the countryside into a virtual moonscape that stretched for miles. Thus trapped for months or sometimes years, the troops sustained attacks with mustard gas, lived with corpses who had once been friends, and watched their own feet rot in the wet, muddy, devastated land of Western Europe.

Although World War I ended in 1918, the ground in places remains lined with trenches and filled with shrapnel almost 90 years later, and several of these battlefields may be visited.

One thing is critical to keep in mind: Not all of the countless artillery shells hurled by either side exploded on impact.

Every year, farmers plowing their fields turn up a number of these live rounds, of which bomb squads must dispose. Visitors commonly come across them protruding from the earth. Do not touch these shells, for they are still explosive. If you see one, mark the spot and, if possible, alert officials to its location.

Verdun

One of the biggest and most protracted battles in the First World War occurred at Verdun. As historian Stephane

Audoin-Rouzeau wrote, "The battle of Verdun is the battle of France. ... There was no battle before and no battle after which was so important in French memory. You can't understand France without understanding Verdun."

It began in February 1916, when nearly a million German troops attacked 200,000 Frenchmen near the town. The land switched hands repeatedly over the next few months and in the process was pulverized, pounded and turned to mush before the fighting ended in December. By that time, 500,000 French and German soldiers had been killed and another 500,000 wounded.

If you visit Verdun, take a sturdy pair of comfortable shoes and a flashlight, for the crux of this battle is not within the walls of the sleepy little town, but out in the forests and fields of what was once a vast killing field.

Walking the ground — still pitted by the millions of shells that flew and gashed the trenches where men lived and died — will give resonance to the bland casualty figures. You need not go deep into the woods or look very hard to find rusty barbed wire, chunks of shrapnel, old canteens, boots and other items that testify to the carnage of nearly a century

The now bucolic countryside of Belgium and northern France remain rife with the stuff of war

ago, but inside the forest, dozens of gun emplacements, trenches and casements lie forgotten.

Forts Vaux and Douaumont are open as well and offer guide sheets in English to lead you through their dank chambers. Many of the fixtures remain, and the observant visitor will note interesting details, such as a wall covered with marks made by troops to tally their days underground. Fort Douaumont contains an especially chilling site: While German troops occupied it, a cooking fire set off a powder magazine, and the resulting explosion killed 600 soldiers, whose bodies are now sealed inside, a memorial to the victims of Verdun.

The Ossuaire is one of the most moving sites on the battlefield. This building houses the unidentified remains of more than 130,000 men killed during the 10-month battle. A film recounts its history, and a tower affords a view of the undulating countryside, still pocked with deep craters. The graves of thousands more unknown French soldiers surround the Ossuaire.

Vimy Ridge and Ypres

The lesser-known Vimy Ridge is another chance to explore a battlefield of northern France. In April 1917, Canadian troops attempted to capture this strategic spot from the German army. Unlike the battle of Verdun, this one was relatively short, but the heavily scarred ground evinces the ferocity of the fighting. Many of the trenches here have been paved with stones, so that the visitor can walk though them to get an idea — albeit a somewhat sanitized one — of what life in the trenches must have been like.

No World War I tour of Western Europe would be complete without a visit to Ypres, the long-quiet Belgian town around which four key battles raged. The best-known, which began on July 31, 1917, and lasted for three months, was called "Passchendaele" after the village where it took place, but the British often refer to it as "the battle of the mud." Throughout

See *Not fade away*, page 8



Recovered shell casings are piled up in Ypres (left). A live round litters the forest floor in Verdun. Many can be found in this area, but take care to avoid them, as they are still quite dangerous.



The Ossuaire in northern France is a WWI memorial as well as the resting place of 130,000 unknown soldiers who died on both sides during the battle of Verdun, which began in February 1916 and lasted for 10 months. The graves of Algerians who fought for the French all face Mecca, the holiest site for Muslims. Every headstone is engraved in Arabic.



A Madonna overlooks Canadian troops who died at Vimy Ridge (left). Above, a crater serves as a reminder of the incessant shelling that laid waste to the landscape around Verdun nearly 90 years ago.

Fall into season with famous regional pastry

BY MARTINA BIAS
SPECIAL TO TRAINING TIMES

Apple strudel is a storied Austrian dessert, and Americans who enjoy this classic, as well as those who have long wanted to sample it at the source, are at bliss to discover that it is widely available in this country too. Because its name in German — *Apfelstrudel* — is so close to that in English, even newcomers can spot it on a menu.

Once an autumnal treat baked to reap full advantage from the harvest, it has become a year-round favorite in these days of refrigeration and seasonless produce. Granny Smith is a reliable and readily procurable pick for a juicy filling, but if you prefer something from the local orchards, choose a good cooking variety: sour, crisp and aromatic. The chopped or sliced fruit is usually flavored with sugar, cinnamon, lemon juice and zest, bread crumbs, and raisins, which

have often been soaked in rum. Ground hazelnuts, slivered almonds or chopped walnuts are other common ingredients.

For those whose knowledge of this scrumptious oblong pastry does not extend to its preparation, purists make it with a flaky crust that must be rolled out as thinly as pasta dough. It must be said, however, that achieving sufficient translucence and elasticity is an art, one frequently learned at a mother's (or a grandmother's) knee. The adage that one should be able to read a love letter through a single layer is scarcely an exaggeration.

You can speed the assembly by purchasing puff pastry from your grocer's freezer, but experienced bakers should give the original method a try. A recipe for each version is given below.

Apfelstrudel is best served warm with a generous powdering of confectioners' sugar. Custard or vanilla sauce is the customary

accompaniment, but vanilla ice cream and whipped cream are also very good. *Guten Appetit!*

Traditional *Apfelstrudel*

2 cups flour, plus more for dusting
1 egg (or two egg whites)
6 tablespoons melted butter or margarine, divided
4 tablespoons warm milk
Pinch salt
2 pounds Granny Smith or other cooking apples
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup raisins
1 cup ground hazelnuts
1/2 cup unseasoned bread crumbs
Additional melted butter or a few tablespoons whipping cream
Confectioners' sugar

Sift flour into a large bowl and make an indentation in center. Into this well, break egg (or pour whites) and add 4 tablespoons melted butter, milk and salt. Stir with a wooden spoon, working from middle and slowly incorpo-

rating flour from around. Finish kneading by hand until pastry is smooth and let rest for 30 minutes underneath its inverted bowl.

In the meantime, peel, core, quarter and thinly slice apples. Mix thoroughly with sugar, cinnamon, raisins and nuts.

Spread clean cloth on counter and dust with flour. Roll out pastry on cloth until it is as thin as possible, being careful not to tear it. Brush with 2 tablespoons butter and strew with bread crumbs. Evenly cover with fruit mixture to within 2 or 3 inches of edges on all sides. Fold over two opposite sides to hold filling. Using cloth, roll up strudel starting with an open side. Place on cookie sheet with seam on bottom. Brush with cream or more melted butter. Bake in preheated 425 F oven for about 30 minutes or until golden.

Serve warm, sprinkled with confectioners' sugar and topped as you wish. Yield: 12 slices

Modified *Apfelstrudel*

2 sheets (1.1 pound total) frozen puff pastry
2 pounds Granny Smith or other cooking apples
1 lemon (or 1/4 cup bottled lemon juice and 1/2 teaspoon dried lemon peel)
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup sugar, divided
1 cup raisins
1/3 cup slivered almonds
1 tablespoon rum
6 tablespoons butter or margarine, plus more melted for brushing
2/3 cup unseasoned bread crumbs
Confectioners' sugar

Thaw puff pastry according to manufacturer's directions.

Place a clean cloth or dish towel on counter and dust lightly with flour. Position pastry sheets on cloth, end to end but with edges overlapping slightly. Press to seal seams, dust with flour and roll out to a 12-by-24-inch rectangle.

See *Strudel*, page 9

Not fade away

Continued from page 7

the region are several sites with reconstructed trenches, piles of rusted materiel, and remnants of bunkers and gun emplacements. At every one stand hundreds of small, white wooden crosses bearing red paper poppies. Left by those wishing to honor the dead from the British and Commonwealth armies, these floral tributes were inspired by the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*, penned in 1915 by John McCrae, a Canadian medical officer:

*"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*"We are the Dead. Short day ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*"Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields."*

Over the course of the war, Ypres was all but wiped off the map, and only extensive and careful rebuilding has allowed it to thrive today. Its beautiful cathedral and the impressive Gothic Cloth Hall, with its 230-foot belfry, were painstakingly restored. On the first floor of the latter is the *In Flanders Field* Museum, devoted to the horrific wartime experiences of townsfolk.

Every evening at 8, a bugler plays the *Last Post*, and traffic is stopped on a main street that runs through Ypres to Menin Gate. This memorial is inscribed with the names of 54,896 British and Commonwealth troops whose remains were forever lost in the muck and filth of these terrible battles.

This simple but stirring ceremony started in 1928 and, except during the German occupation of World War II, has continued nightly. Soldiers and veterans of the British army frequently attend to lay wreaths.

More white crosses hie into view at every turn as you depart, for the land around Ypres is thick with cemeteries — 170 in all. Tyne Cot is the largest British and Commonwealth cemetery in the world, and 11,956 men lie buried there. The names of 34,857 others, the bodies of whom could not be found — and too numerous for inclusion on the Menin Gate — were engraved on an enormous curved wall at the back of the grounds.

A war waged so long ago, with no survivor to recall it, sometimes seems impossible to fathom. This salient fact may help you comprehend its impact: The British who went missing from the battles around Ypres outnumber all the Americans who died during the entire war in Vietnam.



Gun emplacements of many shapes and sizes dot the fields around Verdun.



The citizens of Ypres rebuilt their Cloth Hall (above) brick after it was destroyed during the war. Left, the nearby countryside is lined with headstones for thousands of British and Commonwealth soldiers who fell in these battles.

German culture 101

Unified nation to mark 15th year

BY MARTINA BIAS
SPECIAL TO TRAINING TIMES

On Oct. 3, 1990, nearly one year after the Berlin Wall officially fell, East and West Germany were formally made one. Each year, *Tag der deutschen Einheit*, or "day of German unity," is observed on this date.

During the decades when the country was divided, a national holiday of the same name was celebrated annually on June 17, when in 1953, more than 100,000 protesters staged an uprising in East Berlin. Such a sense of solidarity meant that many Germans were ecstatic at the prospect of being reunited, but this ideal worked better in theory than in practice. The reality was that the two sides had developed extremely different ways of life after 40 years of separation. They collided 15 years ago, and each has been struggling to adjust ever since. In November, a survey by the tabloid *Bild* showed that 12 percent of easterners and 25 percent of westerners believed the Wall should be rebuilt.

This might be hard for Americans to comprehend, but as someone who grew up in what was then West Germany and experienced the reunification up close, I am not surprised at all. By that time, a whole generation had grown up seeing the East and the West as separate nations, without ever having felt that they had lost millions of their own people.

Although I do not claim to speak for all citizens on this subject, I can tell you about my country before and after the Wall was torn down. Maybe my descriptions can help you understand why German unity has progressed so slowly and still meets with so much resistance on both sides of the borders that used to separate us.

My family lived quite literally on the boundary between the BRD (*Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, or "Federal Republic of Germany") and the DDR (*Deutsche Demokratische Republik*, or "German Democratic Republic"). Our house stood on one side of the street, and across it was East Germany. The view from my bedroom window revealed two rows of fence line and a watchtower. Behind that was an East German village, from which I can well remember hearing "communal announcements" over loudspeakers attached to several of the houses. Another vivid memory is the desperate howling of scrawny German shepherds that ran back and forth along the fences. Attached to their post by long wires, they were tended infrequently to keep them hungry and aggressive. Their meager water supply would evaporate in the summer and freeze come winter. We were all glad when the guard dogs were replaced by automated guns, resulting in a silence that was only occasionally broken by a salvo, triggered whenever an ill-fated rabbit or fox wandered into the sights of the machine. Eventually, a search crew would arrive to discover what little was left of these creatures, be they "intruders" or "escapes."

My mother was the youngest of three daughters. When the border was drawn, her sisters were already married, and both decided to stay on the Eastern side with their husbands, while my mother fled to the West with her parents. My aunts lived about one mile away from us, but because of the fences, we had to drive 20 miles to the next crossing point if we wanted to see them. Visitors from the West were allowed, but heavily discouraged by extensive car-and-body searches at checkpoints, where articles were routinely seized. I recall that my father once left all of our musical tapes at home for fear they would be confiscated as inappropriate presents or smuggled items. It was good that he had taken such precautions, for on that trip, the guards instructed him to remove the back seat, so that they could



Photo courtesy of 'Herald Union'

A father holds his child up to peer over the Berlin Wall shortly before it was taken down in November 1989.

inspect all possible hiding spaces.

My mother kept in contact with her siblings by phone, but she often complained that the connection could not have been worse had she been calling halfway around the world. The three of them also spoke in a kind of code, as a monitor would immediately disconnect them if he interpreted anything in their conversation as inappropriate.

Easterners aged 65 and under were generally not allowed to visit the West. The only time my aunts got permission was for my grandmother's funeral. Older people were given more leave to travel. The mother-in-law of an aunt stayed with us for about two weeks every year. She always presented the same gift to me — an embroidery kit for cross-stitched handkerchiefs — and she always apologized that this was the only thing she could get. She also brought extensive wish lists from my other relatives, who had access to West German television but not to any of the products advertised in commercials. This discrepancy filled them with suggestions for items they would love to receive. Even oranges and bananas were considered luxuries, for Eastern grocery stores did not stock them. *Tante Erna* ("Aunt Erna") would hoard these fruits during visits and take them back to her children. These were also the foods most East Germans purchased with the 50 *Deutsch Marks* each drew before first crossing the border in 1989.

You have probably heard about the long waiting lists for the two infamous — and only — brands of automobile in East Germany: *Trabant* (nicknamed "Trabbi") and

Wartburg. The same was true for large appliances, such as washing machines, though I was told that if my grandfather paid for items with *Deutsch Marks*, my relatives' names immediately leapfrogged. As a Communist state, the DDR offered limited selection. When we went to attend my cousin's wedding, I noticed that the bride's white shoes were identical to those displayed in every store.

While granting little freedom to its citizens, the Eastern government was in some ways surprisingly permissive. My cousin, for example, got pregnant while studying at the university. No problem! Free child care was provided on campus, she was able to finish her degree without interruption, and a teaching position was waiting for her upon graduation. The pace of life was more relaxed as well. One of my uncles who worked in a factory reported that, when they did not have all the materials and supplies for production, they frequently went home early or took an extended weekend. This philosophy and the circumstances it produced were all too evident when the borders opened. I felt as if I were going back in time when I entered the village across the way, teetering on cobblestoned streets, and looked at the shabby houses. West German companies buying state-run East German production sites soon realized that almost none of the technology had been updated since the end of the Second World War. The two sectors of Germany had transformed into two different worlds.

Goodwill and the best intentions were not enough to make the transition smooth. Much compromise was required to become one country again, and two camps — *Ossis* and *Wessis* — quickly developed. Easterners were often overwhelmed by the rapid pace of work here and the competitive nature of the professional realm. They also missed the security to which they had been accustomed. People in the former West (especially those close to the collapsed border) were angered that local businesses were paid a bonus for each worker they hired from the eastern regions, even as employers there refused jobs to their new compatriots.

Westerners frequently felt they were footing the bill for all the projects to bring the former East up to national standards and that ex-Easterners were milking the social system. The latter argued that this was the purpose of government, harking back to a time when they were "taken care of" by the state. As recently as the *Bild* poll, 76 percent of Germans who had lived in the DDR said it had not been so bad, despite being reminded of rank pollution, bodies found at the foot of the Wall and waits of up to 14 years for a car.

Stereotypes have ensued, with residents of the eastern areas seen as hopelessly retrograde and those in the west as infuriatingly meddlesome. Unfortunately, this resentment is continually fueled by controversial remarks from both sides. A Bavarian politician recently said, in essence, that people in the east demonstrated a lack of intelligence by supporting the modern incarnation of the Communist Party in such large numbers.

After nearly half a century of separation, achieving true unity will probably take many more years. My grandmother's generation was thrilled to see Germany as one nation again. The peers of my parents had mostly bad memories of the war and its aftermath. My contemporaries knew nothing other than two radically opposed countries, and either side preached hatred and distrust of the other. Success will depend upon a whole new generation, one who grows up knowing only a single Germany and strives in adulthood to overcome whatever disparities still exist.

Strudel

Continued from page 8

Peel, core, quarter and slice apples thinly. Wash lemon, grate off about 1 teaspoon of zest and juice it. Drizzle fresh juice (or bottled juice and dried peel) over fruit. Mix well with zest (if using), 1/3 cup sugar, cinnamon, raisins, almonds and rum.

Melt butter in small pan. Add bread crumbs with remaining 2/3 cup sugar and brown lightly. Spread over pastry to within 2 inches of edges and top with apples. Fold two shorter sides over before starting from one of the longer ones to roll up strudel. Transfer to

cookie sheet, seam down, and bake in preheated 400 F oven for about 45 minutes, brushing repeatedly with additional butter.

Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar and serve warm with any of above suggestions. Yield: 12 slices

If you have ever wondered why Germans do certain things, or if you have a favorite German dish and would like to prepare it at home, send your questions and comments to martina.bias@us.army.mil. One of your suggestions could be used for a future column.

Hispanic Heritage Month

• Story time at the Vilseck Library Oct. 5 will feature the tale of Ferdinand, a bull who did not wish to fight. William Briggs will narrate as Sarah Briggs Cornelius accompanies him on violin. The program will begin at 10 a.m.

• A fiesta including free food, a piñata, flamenco dancers, a band and Latino tunes spun by a DJ is set for Oct. 7, 4:30 p.m. to 12 a.m., at the Community Activities Center in Hohenfels.

• Yesterday's Club in Vilseck will host Latino Night, Oct. 7, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Classes

• Learn to cook Bavarian and other German fare Oct. 5, 6 to 9 p.m., at the Vilseck *Volksschule*. The fee will be about 65 euros, depending on the number of participants. To sign up, call Army Community Service at 476-2650 by Oct. 3.

• Central Texas College will offer the following vocational-technical courses Oct. 24 to Dec. 16 at the Vilseck Army Education Center: automotive electrical systems (four credit hours), administration programs for children I (three hours), and probation and parole (three hours). All are classroom-based. Register Oct. 10 to 21 by calling 476-2362, e-mailing to chuck.sligh@europe.ctcd.edu or

logging on to www.europe.ctcd.edu.

Chapels**Grafenwoehr**

To celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of birds and beasts, all are invited to bring their pets for the Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 4, 5:30 p.m., at the gazebo behind the chapel annex. A chaplain will perform the service, and library and veterinary clinic staff will provide information as well as treats. Call 475-1570 for more details.

Hohenfels

The Catholic Women of the Chapel have begun their new season. The club meets Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Hilltop Chapel Center.

Retirees

The 25th annual Retiree Appreciation Day, Oct. 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg, Germany, will give attendees a chance to speak with representatives from finance offices, get ID cards, update records, have their teeth cleaned, get health and nutrition tips, and be screened for hearing loss, glaucoma, high blood pressure, and other medical conditions. The Association of the U.S. Army will host an icebreaker Oct. 14, 6 to 8 p.m., in the Copper Lounge.

**Soul food**

A poodle-skirted Jennifer Dixon serves a burger and fries to Eva Leech during the Hohenfels Protestant Women of the Chapel's Fifties-themed fall kickoff Sept. 7. The group meets Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and the first Wednesday of every month at Hilltop Chapel Center (see also *Chapels*, below).

Photo by Alice Adler

Send sentiments via video

USAG-G PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"And now: a word from your sponsor ..."

Surprise your family in America by appearing in a televised holiday greeting.

A camera crew will film free messages to be broadcast by local stations in the United States. Military personnel, Department of the Army civilians and their family members who will not be home for the holidays may participate.

Sessions are scheduled in each

100th Area Support Group community: Hohenfels, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in front of the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, and the 282nd Base Support Battalion dining facilities; Vilseck, Oct. 13, 2 to 6:30 p.m., at the Post Exchange; and Grafenwoehr, Oct. 20, 2 to 6:30 p.m., at the Tower View Restaurant.

Unless the Soldier is deployed, he or she must appear in the video wearing either battle dress uniform or Class A's.

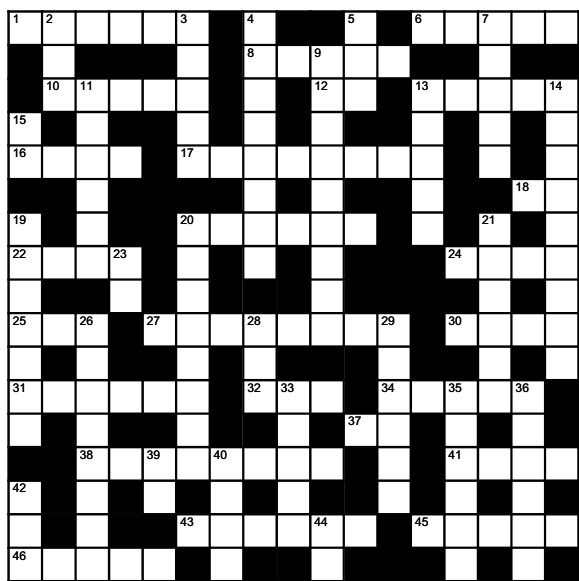
Those who are scheduled to leave the military or move back to America are not eligible for this program.

To one of the above sessions, take complete addresses and phone numbers of those you wish to greet. Messages may be sent to relatives only, not to friends or fiancés (though they may be mentioned).

For more information, call your local Public Affairs Office: 475-1600 or 466-2398/4294.

Crossword

The autumnal equinox fell Sept. 22. Before sallying forth to collect brilliant leaves, make your way through this puzzle thick with trees.

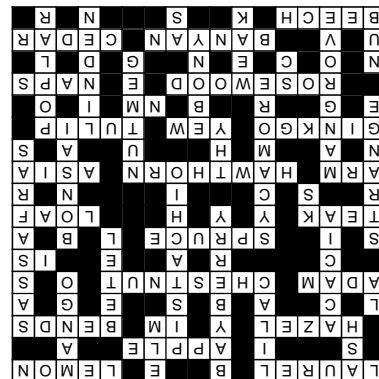
**Across**

- 1 Ancient Romans wore it as wreaths
6 Species bore first Top 40 tune for Peter, Paul and Mary
8 Proverbially never falls far from tree
10 Nut and feminine name
12 *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For* — U2's *The Joshua Tree*
13 "Bows," as with a willow
16 He noshed from Tree of Knowledge
17 Kind ubiquitous in beer gardens
18 "Autumn ... a second spring

when every leaf ____ a flower." — Albert Camus
20 To trim or neaten
22 Type first-rate for decks
24 "A book of verses underneath the bough, a jug of wine, a ____ of bread and Thou." — *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*
25 Limb
27 Tree bears surname of 19th-century novelist, though spelling differs
30 Dogwood prominent in paintings of this continent
31 "Silver apricot" in Chinese, its leaf extracts thought to enhance memory
32 Tops for topiaries
34 Member of magnolia family
37 State where yards are filled with yuccas (abbr.)
38 Favored for furniture

- 41 Often taken in hammocks
43 National tree of India, it rests on aerial roots
45 Shavings repel moths
46 Its homonym means "shore"
Down
2 Timber a hit for baseball bats
3 Shade of purple
4 Wax from its berries gathered for candles
5 Popular arboreal street name
7 "Underneath the ____ tree me honey and me can watch for the moon." — song first featured in *Dr. No*
9 Nutty green kernels grow in these orchards
11 Yields gum arabic
13 Palm that produces dates
14 Shoots used for root beer; bark brewed for tea
15 State famed for live

- oaks (abbr.)
19 ____ *Fruit* by Billie Holiday
20 Biblical tax collector climbed one
21 Meticulously pruned Japanese ornamental
23 State tree cottonwood (abbr.)
26 Florida filled with this sort of swamp
28 "In drear nighted December, too happy, happy tree, ____ branches ne'er remember their green felicity." — John Keats
29 Aromatic seed
33 Key for pianos
35 Bearer of limes
36 Pulp used for paper
39 Aka, Palmetto State (abbr.)
40 Describes balsa
42 Stump
44 "I think that I shall never see, a billboard lovely ____ a tree." Ogden Nash's *Song of the Open Road*



Local football teams kick off varsity play

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

The two high schools in the 100th Area Support Group opened their seasons Sept. 17, but with almost opposite results.

Vilseck

In Division II action, the Falcons traveled to Stuttgart, Germany, and lost to Patch Barracks, 39-0. The team played a tough game, but player shortages and injuries on the field hampered their efforts at a win.

Vilseck had a total of 119 yards rushing. Senior Derrick Jones carried the ball for much of the first half, taking it 103 yards in 25 plays, but an injury kept him off the field after halftime.

The fleetness of Patch junior Daniel Kennedy proved key to his team's victory. He ran 24- and 57-yard touchdowns and caught a 41-yard touchdown pass.

In the third quarter, Ralph Schopf caused a forced fumble, Chris Thomas made a recovery, and Eric Ruzicka blocked two extra points, showing the Panthers that the Falcons would continue the contest aggressively.

At various periods in the game, Ricky Dunbar defended three passes to keep Vilseck's momentum going.

Lead tacklers for the Falcons were Miles

Olive with seven, Tre White and 'Bear' Hood, each with six, and Lee Torres, five. Patch's J. D. Lindsay stood out with 10.

Hohenfels

The Division III Tigers hosted Vicenza, Italy, and beat them, 35-0.

Hohenfels dominated the game from the beginning. By the end of the first quarter, the score had reached 21-0, and by halftime, it was 28-0.

Quarterback Jason Parks threw three touchdown passes totaling 148 yards. B.J. Denson caught and scored on two long-pass plays. Matt Apodaca caught an 18-yard scoring pass. Stephen Washington ran for two two-point conversions and made a 45-yard touchdown. Brandon Merriweather contributed another touchdown on a 17-yard pass.

Parks finished 6-7 for 167 yards and had three touchdown passes. Jeremy Crook made two sacks and six tackles, Isai Ofesa contributed five tackles and two fumble recoveries, and Stephen Washington made five carries for 78 yards and one touchdown.

At press time, each team was on the road for games Sept. 24: Vilseck in Naples, Italy, and Hohenfels at Sigonella, Sicily.

Former coach returns to Tigers

BY WES ARNOLD
HOHENFELS JOURNALISM CLASS

Fifteen straight wins and back-to-back titles were just two of the marks Shawn Rodman had left on Hohenfels High School football. At the start of the 2002 season, with an abundance of players returning, his team seemed poised to win three straight championships — until he unexpectedly stepped down from the sport. Now all of the coaches in the European theater should be shaking in fear, however, because Rodman has returned to the coaching ranks.

A special-education teacher who helps seventh- to 12th-graders with learning disabilities, Rodman said that he left football to spend more time with his family and recover from a neck injury that left him unable to coach. Since his departure, the Tigers had been in a bit of a tailspin, including two straight years without a playoff appearance. The school suffered its all-time low for wins in 2003, when its record was 1-4. Last year, things started to turn around with a 4-3

season, and the team scored a first-round playoff victory, before falling to Baumholder, Germany, in the semifinals.

Rodman downplayed local hopes that he could guarantee stability to the football program — which will be on its third coach in as many years — but said he had felt compelled to take its helm.

"I was asked to do it, and I wasn't going to sit back and watch the school not have a team," he recalled.

Rodman brings his laid-back attitude, coaching know-how and a ready smile to the field, as well as teaching skills recognized in May, when the Department of Defense Education Activity honored

him with its Teacher of the Year Award for the Bavaria district.

With 12 starters returning from last year, the Tigers look primed to make a championship run. Asked whether this team was of that caliber, Rodman answered, "We're not there yet, but we have tremendous athletes and can be a very dangerous team, if we put it all together."



Rodman



Photo by Pfc. Peter Suh

Troupe-ing the guard

Outfitted in the shirts of various service branches, cheerleaders from the Orlando Magic basketball team give a free performance for the troops at the Hohenfels Post Gym Sept. 15. The event was part of their European tour.

playtime

Clean competition

Get a head start on Red Ribbon Week, set for Oct. 23 to 30, at a cross-country fun run Oct. 8.

The event will comprise five-, 10- and 15-kilometer routes. Registration will be conducted outside the Grafenwoehr Field House beginning at 8 a.m., after which runners will be bused to starting points. The gun will go off at 9.

Because the theme is saying "no" to drugs and alcohol, family participation is encouraged. Water bottles, T-shirts and commemorative red ribbons will be given away, and trophies will be awarded.

Get moo-ving

The Hohenfels Kontakt Club will hike to the *Kuhstall-Café*, a working dairy in Illkofen that serves ice cream and homemade cakes, Oct. 16.

The group will meet at 1:45 p.m. on the *Marktplatz* of Raitenbuch, leave at 2 and arrive around 2:30.

To reserve a spot, call Franz Rothbauer, 466-2045, or Christina Wilson, 466-4294.

Race results

The annual Hohenfels Health and Job Fair Aug. 25 featured a five-kilometer fun run, which drew 90 participants who ran or walked in four categories.

Kim Lowman finished first among the women, with her time of 21 minutes, 49 seconds. Leann Bucholtz (23:37) was runner-up.

In the girls' division, Esselyn Anvino (33:00) was followed by Joyce Rollins (34:25). Jochen Doerr (19:57) led the men, and Jim Barkei (20:20) came in second.

Taking first place in the boys' category was Shelby Lowman (27:34). Runner-up was Gadiel Mendez (33:45).

Young golfing club hits course

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

The Vilseck High School golf team teed off in Ramstein, Germany, Sept. 15, in the first of four competitions leading to the European tournament at Wiesbaden, Germany, Oct. 13 and 14.

Coach Robert Piccaro said that transportation problems had kept the 15 players' chances to practice well under par.

"The kids had not stepped foot on a golf course this year before their match," he reported. "We have been practicing here in the field near the helipad with plastic balls

and then just chipping regular balls."

Given that many of his duffers were novices, this had left them green indeed.

"We only have two returning players from last year ... and about 85 percent of the kids have never been on a golf course," he said.

Both of the veterans are boys; the girls' team has an all-new lineup.

In their opening match, captain Jesse Sellers scored 17. Among the rookies, Mike Selva made five points, and Stephanie Hood and Mary Mills each had two.

The teams play under the Modified Stableford Scoring System, tailored to fit

the needs of Department of Defense Dependents' Schools, according to Piccaro.

"Points are given for the lower amount of strokes on each hole," he explained. "In normal golf, an attempt is made to get fewer strokes per hole. An example of this would be if you get a par that gives you plus three points, a birdie plus four points, an eagle plus five points, a bogey plus two points, a double bogey plus one; after that, you just pick up your ball and exit out of the hole."

The last time anyone from Vilseck went to the Europeans was in 1993, Piccaro said.

now showing



Unless otherwise noted, all cinemas are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and movies begin at 7 p.m. The Tower Theater in Grafenwoehr is closed on Wednesdays as well. Because schedules are subject to change, please telephone for verification.

Grafenwoehr, Camp Aachen (09641-83-6115)

The theater does not regularly screen films because of its limited use by troops. Tune in to AFN Bavaria for announcements or phone the number above to hear a recording of the latest schedule.

Grafenwoehr, Tower (09641-83-1790)

Thursday, Sept. 29 *Just Like Heaven*
Friday, Sept. 30 *High Tension*
Saturday, Oct. 1 *Dark Water*
Sunday, Oct. 2 *The Devil's Rejects*
Thursday, Oct. 6 *Deuce Bigalow, European Gigolo*
Friday, Oct. 7 *Sky High*
Saturday, Oct. 8 *Wedding Crashers*

Sunday, Oct. 9 1 p.m. *Valiant*
Flightplan

Hohenfels, General Patton (09472-83-1790)

Wednesday, Sept. 28 *Bad News Bears*
Thursday, Sept. 29 *The Devil's Rejects*
Friday, Sept. 30 *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Saturday, Oct. 1 *Dark Water*
Sunday, Oct. 2 1 p.m. *Rebound*
The Devil's Rejects
Wednesday, Oct. 5 *Sky High*
Thursday, Oct. 6 *Bad News Bears*
Friday, Oct. 7 *Flightplan*
Saturday, Oct. 8 *Wedding Crashers*

Sunday, Oct. 9 *Deuce Bigalow, European Gigolo*

Vilseck, Mike Jurkewicz (09662-83-1790)

Wednesday, Sept. 28 *Just Like Heaven*
Thursday, Sept. 29 *Fantastic Four*
Friday, Sept. 30 *The Devil's Rejects*
Saturday, Oct. 1 *Bad News Bears*
Sunday, Oct. 2 1 p.m. *Sky High*
Hustle and Flow
Wednesday, Oct. 5 *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Thursday, Oct. 6 *Wedding Crashers*
Friday, Oct. 7 *Bad News Bears*
Saturday, Oct. 8 *Flightplan*
Sunday, Oct. 9 *Must Love Dogs*

previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews



Jodie Foster embarks on a *Flightplan* of her own.

Bad News Bears (PG-13)

Billy Bob Thornton, Greg Kinnear and Marcia Gay Harden
 In this update of the 1976 romp, a foulmouthed, liquor-swilling coach takes on a Little League team of the most inept outcasts and turns them into championship finalists.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (PG)

Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore and Helena Bonham Carter
 Tim Burton brings his vividly imaginative style to the beloved Roald Dahl classic about eccentric chocolatier Willy Wonka and Charlie Bucket, a poor young lad who lives in the shadow of his extraordinary factory.

Dark Water (PG-13)

Jennifer Connelly, Ariel Gade and Dougray Scott
 A newly separated mother and her young daughter move into a dilapidated apartment, where unstoppable leaks and other odd occurrences leave them up to their necks in fear.

Deuce Bigalow, European Gigolo (R)

Rob Schneider, Eddie Griffin and Jean Reno
 The male "escort" works Europe in this sequel.

The Devil's Rejects (R)

Sid Haig, Bill Moseley and Sheri Moon Zombie

The follow-up to the 2003 horror hit *House of 1,000 Corpses* exhumes the story of an evil family of sadistic murderers who like to torture, maim and kill everyone who crosses their path.

Fantastic Four (PG-13)

Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba and Michael Chiklis
 After a research mission to outer space, four crew members find that their exposure to cosmic radiation has endowed them with superhuman abilities.

Flightplan (PG-13)

Jodie Foster, Erika Christensen and Peter Sarsgaard
 When her young daughter seems to vanish during a trans-Atlantic flight, a recent widow struggles to prove her sanity to the disbelieving crew and passengers.

High Tension (R)

Philippe Nahon, Maiwenn Le Besco and Cecile de France
 In this French director's whack at the slasher genre, a teenaged girl takes a friend home to the countryside, where the two must outwit a maniac who has butchered her parents.

Hustle and Flow (R)

Terrence DaShon Howard, Ludacris and Anthony Anderson
 A drug dealer with a sideline in prostitution teams up with a small-time recording artist to produce a demo.

Just Like Heaven (PG-13)

Reese Witherspoon, Mark Ruffalo and Donal Logue
 A man is startled when a young woman shows up in his new apartment, adamantly insisting that it is hers. After he becomes convinced that she is only a ghost, she tries to persuade him otherwise.

Must Love Dogs (PG-13)

Diane Lane, John Cusack and Elizabeth Perkins
 After a divorcee's family arranges a series of suitors via the Internet, she endures a series of mismatches — until an idealistic boat builder vies for her affections with a newly separated father.

Rebound (PG)

Martin Lawrence, Wendy Robinson and Breckin Meyer
 A top collegiate basketball coach banned for his temper must take a job teaching junior-high students to dribble.

Sky High (PG)

Kurt Russell, Michael Angarano and Bruce Campbell
 The son of two legendary superheroes who unbeknownst to his parents has no special powers is enrolled at an elite school, where he falls in with the children of misfit sidekicks.

Valiant (G)

Animated
 A brave but pint-sized bird dreams of joining the elite Royal Homing Pigeon Service to fly for crown and country during World War II.

Wedding Crashers (R)

Owen Wilson, Vince Vaughn and Christopher Walken
 Two divorce mediators spend every spring crashing weddings — whether Jewish, Italian, Irish, Chinese or Hindu — spinning explanatory yarns for inquisitive guests and picking up women anxious to be the next bride.



Diane Lane and her pooch put John Cusack through the paces in the romantic comedy *Must Love Dogs*.

Change

Continued from page 1

under consideration.

For the past six years, *Training Times* has been a supplement inside *Stars and Stripes* every other Tuesday, but free copies were not available from on-post newspaper bins

until the Thursday thereafter.

Under the new agreement, issues will be delivered to bins on alternate Wednesdays, meaning that readers need no longer spend 50 cents to see the *Training Times* on

publication day.

The current edition, along with archived ones, can also be found at www.100asg.army.mil (pull down under "News") and starting Oct. 12, at the Lehner site.

Readers are encouraged to suggest new bin locations and notify the staff of newsworthy events by e-mailing usaggnews@graf.eur.army.mil or calling 475-NEWS (6397).